



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

AUG 23 2012

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

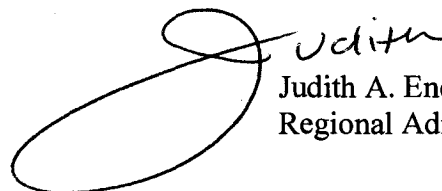
Thank you for your letter of June 14, 2012 to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson concerning contaminated ground water in the vicinity of the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Bethpage, New York. Although the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead agency for this site, the EPA is working with NYSDEC, the U.S. Department of the Navy and the impacted water districts on the development of a comprehensive strategy to address contamination from the site. The EPA has dedicated an enormous amount of staff and technical resources to address the ground water contamination from this site.

The cleanup of complex ground water contamination sites such as the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant requires a comprehensive approach that includes the remediation of source areas, delineation of the nature and extent of contamination, evaluation and implementation of alternatives to clean up the contaminated ground water and a long-term monitoring program. This type of management strategy defines priorities and establishes a range of short, medium and long-term actions to address site-related contamination effectively.

Your letter highlights some of the challenges posed by the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant site including the financial impacts of the ground water contamination on the water districts that have already been affected and the potential effects of cleanup decisions on public water supply wells in the area. The EPA recognizes these concerns and has made addressing contamination from the site a priority. The agency is committed to a cleanup of the site that is conducted in the most efficient and timely manner with input from affected communities. The EPA will continue to work with the Navy, NYSDEC, impacted water suppliers and the public to formulate a strategy that sets priorities, thoroughly evaluates viable alternatives and leads to a comprehensive solution to this complex issue.

If you have further questions, please contact me at 212-637-5000 or your staff can contact Todd Calongne, Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Branch Chief, at (212) 637-3657.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator